



NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
ATTORNEY
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA*

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**July 15, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA - Two Fairmont, West Virginia, residents entered guilty pleas on July 13, 2005, in United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia in Clarksburg before Chief Judge Irene M. Keeley.

United States Attorney Thomas E. Johnston announced that CHRISTOPHER DICK and COLE DICK entered pleas of guilty to one count of an Indictment charging them with conspiring together and with other persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury to violate federal firearms laws from August 2004 to October 2004 in Fairmont, Marion County, West Virginia. CHRISTOPHER DICK maintained a Federal Firearms License for Chrisland Enterprises, LLC; and COLE DICK was an employee who sold firearms to customers on the business premises of Chrisland Enterprises. Other conspirators would conduct "straw purchases" of firearms from CHRISTOPHER DICK, COLE DICK, and other conspirators at Chrisland Pawn, LLC by making false statements on Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Form 4473 with respect to the identity of the actual purchaser of the firearms, the actual purchaser's residence address, and actual purchaser's date of birth. CHRISTOPHER DICK, COLE DICK, and other conspirators knowingly made false statements on the Forms 4473 and transferred the firearms.

The defendants face a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

The case was prosecuted under the Project Safe Homes Initiative by Assistant United States Attorney Shawn Angus Morgan. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives with the assistance of the Fairmont Police Department and the Harrison/Lewis County Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force.

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